



**HMH-463**

## **Commanding Officer's Safety Policy**

**Fundamentals = Safety**



**Goal:** Our goal is to accomplish our mission with zero preventable mishaps. We will achieve that goal if we ensure that safety is a state of mind that is present in everything we do. Our Sailors, Marines and our extended Pegasus family are our most precious assets. Taking care of ourselves, our families and each other is critical to our success.

**Fundamentals:** Maintaining a focus on the **fundamentals** of everything that we do is the first line of defense. Consistent and methodical execution of the basics is essential. Every one of us must ensure that we operate in accordance with established safety policies, procedures, and checklists. They exist for a reason! Fatigue, complacency, rushing, and overconfidence must always be avoided. Remain vigilant and never let your guard down.

**Risk Management (RM):** Apply RM to every activity at every level. Safety is the responsibility of every Marine and Sailor in this command. Every one of us is responsible for identifying hazards and intervening to stop unsafe acts.

**On/ Off Duty:** In an operational squadron risk is ever present. We often think of the risk associated with a tactical insert in a combat environment, but risk is equally present when performing the most basic maintenance action or participating in an off duty activity. We lose more Marines in off duty mishaps involving alcohol, motorcycles, and recreational vehicles than we lose in the line of duty. Approach your off duty time like any other mission and always have a sound plan prior to stepping off.

**Speak up:** When in doubt speak up! Every member of this squadron is empowered to voice safety concerns at any time, without fear of reprisal. You have multiple methods to voice your concerns including the Enlisted Safety Council, Anymouse Program, your squadron safety representatives and the Chain of Command.

**Learn:** We must be a learning organization to prevent repeating mistakes. Conduct honest, thorough, critical debriefs of all flights, maintenance evolutions and exercises. Whether in the form of an after action or simply a logbook, record and share our lessons learned. By sharing our mistakes, we will prevent others from repeating them.

Safety is a state of mind that must be present in everything that we do both on and off duty. Safety is ingrained in the three **fundamental** components of our mission: **fixing aircraft, flying aircraft, and taking care of ourselves, our families and each other.**

**Lieutenant Colonel Eric D. Purcell**  
**Commanding Officer, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463**